

U.S. Patent Application serial No. 09/747,289
Reply to Office Action dated October 4, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. The Specification, Claim 12, 31 and Figure ?? are hereby amended. Claim 2 is rewritten in independent form. Claims 6 and 13 are amended to depend from claim 2. Claims 1 and 25 are cancelled with out prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 31 is amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Claims 1 and 12 were rejected as being anticipated by Salloum (US 6,700,878B2). Claim 1 is cancelled. Claim 12 is amended to depend from claim 2, which was not subjected to this rejection. Therefore, the rejection is moot. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration of claim 12 is requested.

Claims 13 and 25 were rejected as being unpatentable over Salloum in view of Padovani (US 6,574,211 B2). Claim 25 is cancelled. Claim 13 is amended to depend from claim 2, which was not subjected to this rejection. Therefore, the rejection is moot. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration of claim 13 is requested.

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In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. No. 29,165, at (612)336-472.

Respectfully submitted,



MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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By Curtis B. Hamre
Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165

CBH:mfe